

KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 415
King County, Washington
September 1, 1994 Through August 31, 1995

Schedule Of Findings

1. Kent School District Officials Should Comply With Special Education Program Requirements

Our audit of the special education program (CFDA 84.027) operated by the Kent School District officials noted that five of the five student participants tested had not been reviewed for reassessment by multidisciplinary teams (MDT) within the required 3-year period. The reassessment process determines whether or not the student's eligibility in the program may continue.

Title 34 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Part 300.534(b) states in part:

... an evaluation of a child ... is conducted every three years or more frequently if conditions warrant or if the child's parent or teacher requests an evaluation.

Washington Administrative Code 392-171-512 states in part:

Each identified student having a handicapping condition shall be reassessed ... by the multidisciplinary team ... at a minimum, once every three years or more frequently by this chapter.

District officials were aware of this issue and indicated that prior practice was to begin the reassessment process on the date that the reassessment was actually due. The district has changed its practice; however, reassessments are still not being performed in a timely manner.

Student eligibility for the program is jeopardized when district officials neglect to conduct reassessment reviews within the required timeframe. Failure to perform these reassessments could result in ineligible individuals receiving benefits under the program; the district being required to repay funds spent on ineligible individuals; and the loss of future grant funding. Due to the nature of the program, we were unable to establish the amount of costs associated with the exceptions noted.

We recommend district officials reassess Special Education Program students in compliance with federal and state regulations.

We further recommend district officials consult the Superintendent of Public Instruction in resolving this issue.